

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 21 NOV 2005

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Applicant's or agent's file reference WEJ1504415-142	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/NZ2004/000152	International filing date (day/month/year) 16 July 2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 18 July 2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 A01K 27/00		
Applicant BIRD, Darren James		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 2 sheets, as follows:

- sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
- sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 February 2005	Date of completion of the report 14 November 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer A SEN Telephone No. (02) 6283 2158

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000152

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
 - the international application as originally filed/furnished
 - the description: pages 1, 3-8, as originally filed/furnished
 - page 2, received by this Authority on 18 October 2005 with the letter of 18 October 2005
 - pages , received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - the claims: pages , as originally filed/furnished
 - pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
 - page 9, received by this Authority on 18 October 2005 with the letter of 18 October 2005
 - pages , received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - the drawings: pages 1/6-6/6, as originally filed/furnished
 - pages , received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - pages , received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000152

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-7	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-7	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-7	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-7 meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2)-(4) for novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. The prior art published before the priority date does not disclose a leash comprising an elongate strap with a collar connector and a container connector, a container of flexible material and triangular shape with a strap connector at its apex and a leash handle on an opposite side opposite the apex, the leash handle being parallel to the opposite side, and a slideable connector adapted to engage with the container connector.

Object

10 It is an object of the present invention to provide an animal leash which will at least go some way toward overcoming disadvantages of known animal leashes, or to at least provide the public with a useful alternative.

Summary of the Invention

15 Accordingly in one aspect the invention may broadly be said to consist in a leash comprising an elongate strap having a first end and a second end, the first end having a collar connector for connection to an animal collar, the second end having a container connector, a container being constructed from a substantially flexible material and having a substantially triangular shape, and including a strap connector provided at or adjacent to an apex of the triangular shape for 20 connection to the container connector, and the container including a leash handle at an opposite side of the triangular shape substantially opposite the apex, the leash handle being disposed substantially parallel to the opposite side and being adapted to be grasped by the hand of the user, and wherein the leash includes a slideable connector slideably mounted about the strap so as to be capable of moving along the strap, the slideable connector being 25 adapted to engage with the container connector to allow the leash to be attached about a fixed object without the container or handle being attached to the leash.

30 Preferably the leash includes a collar having a strap connector adapted to engage the collar connector.

Preferably the collar includes a collar fastening means such as a buckle.

35 Preferably the collar includes a fastening loop such as a "D" ring for containing the tongue of the collar and/or for attaching registration tags, identification tags and such devices as Pet Blinkers™ or safety lights.

Preferably the collar strap connector is fixedly mounted on the collar in a location substantially opposite the fastening means.

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Claims

1. A leash comprising an elongate strap having a first end and a second end, the first end having a collar connector for connection to an animal collar, the second end having a container connector, a container being constructed from a substantially flexible material and having a substantially triangular shape, and including a strap connector provided at or adjacent to an apex of the triangular shape for connection to the container connector, and the container including a leash handle at an opposite side of the triangular shape substantially opposite the apex, the leash handle being disposed substantially parallel to the opposite side and being adapted to be grasped by the hand of the user, and wherein the leash includes a slideable connector slideably mounted about the strap so as to be capable of moving along the strap, the slideable connector being adapted to engage with the container connector to allow the leash to be attached about a fixed object without the container or handle being attached to the leash.
2. A leash as claimed in claim 1 including a collar having a strap connector adapted to engage the collar connector.
3. A leash as claimed in claim 2 wherein the collar includes a fastening loop for attaching one or more of: a registration tag; an identification tag; a light emitting device.
4. A leash as claimed in claim 3 wherein the collar includes a collar fastening means for fastening the collar about the animal, the fastening means being provided substantially adjacent to the fastening loop.
5. A leash as claimed in claim 3 wherein the collar strap connector is fixedly mounted on the collar in a location substantially opposite the fastening loop.
6. A leash as claimed in claim 4 wherein the collar strap connector is fixedly mounted on the collar in a location substantially opposite the fastening means.
7. A leash substantially as herein described with reference to Figure 4 of the accompanying drawings.

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